

Briefing Statement

Bureau: National Park Service
Issue: (BAND) 2006 Entrance Fee Increase
Park Site: Bandelier National Monument
Date: January 23, 2006

Background:

In the Spring of 2005, under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), Public Law 108-447, Bandelier submitted to the Intermountain Region Office (IMRO) its request to increase certain entrance fees at Bandelier National Monument beginning in 2006. Bandelier's entrance fees have not changed since the institution of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program in 1997. The IMRO forwarded Bandelier's request, which request was accompanied by a comparability study, to the Washington Support Office (WASO) for approval. WASO approved Bandelier's request in the Fall of 2005.

The use of fee revenues has enabled Bandelier to enhance park visitors' experiences. Entrance fees, campground fees, commercial vehicle tour fees, and interpretive program fees help maintain and improve Bandelier National Monument. The eighty percent of fee revenues that remains in the park to improve visitor services and protect resources has been recently utilized at Bandelier to address backlog maintenance issues on the backcountry trails, on the National Historic Landmark District structures, on the Main Loop Trail in Frijoles Canyon, in the primary visitor use campground, and in the replacement of interpretive wayside exhibits. The primary emphasis for the use of fees has been to enhance visitor enjoyment and safety throughout the park, and to address rehabilitation and resource protection issues in the National Historic Landmark District that will enable the District to maintain its functionality and historic integrity. Approximately \$2.2 million have been expended and obligated over the past seven fiscal years from Recreational Fee Demonstration funding for these and other fee demo projects.

In FY2006, the entrance fee increases will generate an estimated \$72,000 more in fees than in FY2005. Additional revenues from increased fees will allow Bandelier to continue to address backlog maintenance projects and refurbish and enhance facilities used by visitors. Improved services and facilities funded by increased fees will enhance visitor enjoyment and safety at the monument.

Current Status:

Certain park entrance fees, including the Annual Bandelier Park Pass, will increase effective March 1, 2006, as follows:

- Seven-day Individual—per person Fee (bicycle, motorcycle, hiker – recreational group per person) will increase from \$5 to \$6
- Seven-day Per-vehicle Fee (family group—noncommercial, single party) will increase from \$10 to \$12
- Annual Bandelier Park Pass will increase from \$25 to \$30.

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